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THE TACOMA NORTH WEST FACTS

FROM THE VOICE OF THE AFRICAN AMERICAN COMMUNITY

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Miracle Evanglistic Ministries Presents Harvest Time Revival and Brunch

Evangelist Paul A. Easley

Miracle Evangelistic Ministries Presents
Harvest Time Revival and Brunch
Theme: " Realigning your will to the will of GOD, that you may receive your harvest."(Matthew 9-37:38 & John 4:35).
Harvest Time Revival Service will be held every Friday and Saturday in the month of March
Harvest Time Brunch will be held on Saturday March 18th, 2006 at 10:00am
(Donation $25.00 dollars)
Speaker: Paul A. Easley
(Sharing the Vision on Harvest Time School Of Evangelism) Harvest Time Revival and Brunch at the KING OSCAR MOTEL & CONVENTION CENTER 8820 S. Hosmer
(White Banquet Room) Tacoma WA 98444
For more info call (253)444-7018

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Last Chance...Last Chance

Hal Jackson's Talented Teens of Washington Scholarship Program is an exciting and wonderful opportunity for Pre-teens (8-12 years old) and teens (13-17 years old). It is a program for individual talents, wherein all genre of talent are performed in live theater. This includes vocal music, instrumental music, dance of all forms, drama, gymnastics, martial arts and other creative theater arts. Auditions for the 2006 Scholarship Program will be held in Seattle and cost $10.00. the auditions will be held at Mount Zion Baptist Church, 19th at East Madison, Sunday, march 5th from 4pm to 7pm. The contestant winners for 2006 scholarship Program will have an 8 day free trip to new York City and perform on Apollo stage or 4 days to Orlando, Florida to compete for an International title, college scholarship, public appearances, etc. For further information call (206) 722-1839 or email to talentedteenswas@yahoo.com.

Puget Sound District Celebrates

Superintendent Dr. Leo C. Brown Jr.

16th Annual Puget Sound District Meeting

February 20-24 2006

Our Theme: "REACHING THE WORLD THROUGH THE POWER OF THE SPIRIT" ZECHARIACH 4:6(NIV)
We would like the community to join us as we give honor to anointed, appointed man of God Superintendent Dr. Leo C. Brown Jr. as he delivers his annual address.
Friday, February 24,2006,7:00p.m.
District Headquarters
True Vine Community
Church of God In Christ
5715 North 33rd Street
Tacoma, Washington 98407
(253) 759-9059 Hope to see you there!

"A Search for Joy"

African-American Family History Symposium

You are invited to attend an African American Family History Symposium. This symposium is a free all day program for African Americans and others who are interested in pursuing their family history.

There will be family history classes, lunch, and music. There are several choices for classes to attend, together with tours of the local Family History Center adjacent to the main building.

Carol Mitchell / Instructor

This program is designed to help people research African American family history.
Lunch will be provided. Keynote presentation Debbie Wooten, motivational speaker

Register Early As Space Is Limited

Saturday, March 11, 2006

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints 1102 S. Pearl St. Tacoma, WA

A complete agenda and list of topics and presenters can be found at our Web site: Africanamericanroots.org. or Contact Roberta Nichols at (253) 564-1475

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

Sealed bid proposals will be accepted for the following project:

PROJECT NO.: 2402

TITLE: Olympic View Elementary School Demolition.

AGENCY: Bremerton School District 100C.

PROJECT MANAGER: Sharon Griffin, Bremerton School District.

SUBMITTAL TIME/DATE/LOCATION: Prior to 1:00 P.M., Tuesday, March 14, 2006
Bremerton School District 100-C / Admin Bldg.
134 North Marion Avenue Bremerton, WA 98310
Public Bid Opening will commence at approximately 1:05 P.M. at the same location.

MANDATORY PRE-BID WALK-THROUGH: 9:30 AM., Tuesday, February 28, 2006.
Meet at front door of Olympic View Elementary on Perry Avenue.

Contractors may obtain plans and specifications from Ford Graphics, 623 Broadway, Tacoma, WA 98402, telephone (800) 337-8103, fax (253) 274-8775 upon the deposit of $100.00.

Make checks payable to the Bremerton School District. Plans must be returned in good condition within seven (7) days following bid date to obtain a refund of deposit. After seven days no refunds will be made.

Plans may also be viewed at the following locations: Associated Sub-Contractors, Tacoma; Builders Exchange of Washington, Everett; Construction Data Plan Center, Bellevue; McGraw Hill Plan Center, Seattle; McGraw Hill Plan Center, Tacoma; Reed Construction Data (CMD), Kirkland; Olympic Peninsula Plan Center, Bremerton; Valley Plan Center, Kent.

Please direct questions regarding this project to the office of the Consultant, Rice Fergus Miller Architecture & Planning, LLP, 262 4th Street, Bremerton, WA 98337, telephone (360) 377-8773, fax (360) 792-1385, and contact Ed McManamna.

The District reserves the right to accept or reject any or all proposals and to waive informalities.

Sharon Griffin, Facilities Director
Bremerton School District

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BET Founder To Buy 100 Hotels For $1.7 Billion

The development firm controlled by Robert L. Johnson has signed a deal to buy 100 hotels for $1.7 billion, a significant expansion of the real estate holdings of the founder of the Black Entertainment Television network.

Johnson's RLJ Development LLC said Monday that it will purchase the properties, most of them operating under Hilton and Marriott brand names, from the hotel company White Lodging Services, based in Merrillville, Ind. The hotels are in 12 states including Illinois, Texas, Colorado, Florida and Indiana.One of the holding companies Johnson formed after he sold BET to Viacom Inc. in 2001 for $3 billion, RLJ Development currently holds 30 properties.

The company will acquire 87 of the White Lodging properties in the second quarter of 2006. The other 13 are under construction, and closing is expected within two years. White Lodging will continue to manage the hotels.

"We are thrilled to add these hotel properties to the RLJ Development portfolio," Johnson said.

RLJ Development invests in upscale urban hotels, most of them under Hilton and Marriott brand names. In December, it closed its first private equity fund, the RLJ Urban Lodging Fund, that held a purchasing power of $900 million from investments by public and private pension funds, along with other investors.

Johnson, who formed BET in 1979 and owns the NBA's Charlotte Bobcats, is also on the board of directors of Hilton Hotels Corp.

White Lodging, founded in 1985 by billionaire Dean White of Crown Point, Ind., had said in October it was seeking to sell the hotels in order to generate cash and concentrate on hotel management.

White Lodging does not expect any layoffs and plans to use proceeds from the sale to expand into other markets, said Judy Bronowski, the company's vice president of strategic planning and communications.

"We're muscle-building our organization and adding resources," she said. "It's part of our strategy to generate the liquidity so we can continue growing."

OPRAH AND BILL GATES SURPRISE SAN DIEGO HIGH SCHOOL: Billionaires pay visit to film segment of talk show on school reform

The students at San Diego High School thought Wednesday (Feb. 15) would be just another typical day. Then Oprah Winfrey showed up out of the blue, flanked by Microsoft Corp. Chairman Bill Gates and his wife Melinda, causing shrieks of delight and a sudden flurry of cell phone calls from students to their shocked parents.

"Dad, you're not going to believe it. Oprah is here," 16-year-old Daejha said during a call to her father, Mark Toney. "I waved at her and she waved back at me."

The celebrity trio visited the campus to film an upcoming segment of "The Oprah Winfrey Show" about the $11 million donation given to the San Diego Unified School District in 2003 from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. The money was to assist in efforts to reform three large high schools in the city.

According to Music McCall, a spokeswoman for the district, some of the money was used to divide San Diego High School into six smaller schools specializing in business, international studies, media, and science, among others.

"Instead of being at a big high school with 1,400 students, you're at a school with 400 students where people know you better," McCall said. "They learn more and get more out of school."

The goal of the program was to increase the number of college-ready San Diego high school graduates, particularly among low-income and minority students.

Congressman Fattah Leads Effort To Secure $25 Million In Guaranteed Graduate School Scholarships

Surprise announcement made guaranteeing full scholarships to all 700 qualifying students attending 20th annual Fattah Conference on Higher Education.

U.S. Congressman Chaka Fattah made a surprise announcement today that all 700 students attending the 20TH Annual 2006 Fattah Conference on Higher Education will receive full scholarships upon their acceptance for graduate school at any one of 16 participating Pennsylvania colleges and universities. The announcement was made at the Saturday luncheon of the three-day Conference being held through Sunday at the Wyndham Franklin Plaza Hotel, 17th & Race Streets in Philadelphia.

"This $25 million scholarship announcement will positively impact the life chances of each and every one of you here today," Congressman Fattah said in addressing the Conference. "Your successful completion of graduate school will transform our city and country." According to State Senator Vincent Hughes — one of the Conference's supporters and a leading member of the Pennsylvania Higher Education Assistance Agency (PHEAA) Board of Directors - the scholarship guarantee represents an unprecedented partnership led by the office of Congressman Fattah, the State System of Higher Education (SSHE), participating schools along with the Educational Advancement Alliance. "Philadelphia and the nation's future depend on more minority students pursuing graduate degrees - particularly in science and technology," Senator Hughes said.

The participating institutions that have guaranteed the scholarships for qualified students include Temple University, the University of the Sciences of Philadelphia (USP), as well as Bloomsburg State University, California State University, Cheyney State University, Clarion State University, East Stroudsburg State University, Edinboro State University, Indiana University of Pennsylvania, Kutztown State University, Lock Haven State University, Mansfield State University, Millersville State University, Shippensburg State University, Slippery Rock State University and West Chester State University — all of which are members of the Pennsylvania's State System of Higher Education. "We want to thank Congressman Chaka Fattah and his leadership in addressing the need for more minority students to pursue and achieve their dream of a graduate school education," said Dr. Judy G. Hample, Chancellor, Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education. "We look forward to working with him in the future and be an essential resource in his education initiatives."

In addition to this Conference on Higher Education, Congressman Fattah has been the driving force behind GEAR UP the nation's largest early college awareness program and CORE Philly which was the first program in the country to provide last dollar scholarships to every senior graduating from any Philadelphia public, charter, private or parochial school.

The 700 students attending the Conference are predominantly African American and Latino currently enrolled in undergraduate programs at colleges and universities throughout Pennsylvania and other neighboring states. Over the weekend, they have attended skill building workshops and had inspirational speakers from education leaders and advocates of national stature including former Congressman and President of the UNCF William H. Gray III and former U.S. Secretary of Health and Human Services and Mayor of San Antonio, Henry Cisneros.

Founded 20 years ago by then State Representative Chaka Fattah as the Graduate Opportunities Conference, the Fattah Conference on Higher Education has as its objective to increase the enrollment of under-represented students in undergraduate, graduate and professional schools. This regional informational and scholarship conference has helped to fund and inspire more than 10,000 under-represented students to achieve a post-secondary and graduate education. Sallie Mae is the principal sponsor of the Conference and has established a $2 million endowment fund that will enable the program to be offered to students in perpetuity.

Accountability:

After reading last weeks Seattle Times article about all of the alleged illegal recruiting violations that occurred at the Sealth High School girl's basketball program one could not help but wonder where is the accountability. During the same week, Garfield Girls basketball Coach, Joyce Walker was suspended one game for an administrative error. At least Walker took responsibility for her mistake.

A week before that a Garfield High School athlete was deemed ineligible for the rest of the season due to grades. In these three instances there is one common victim here and that is the youth. Every year you hear of countless numbers of kids becoming academically ineligible and the team, school and coach move on. One less troubled youth on the team. I think it is time to hold the King Co Conference Central Administration and its schools responsible. To many times youth are not being given the resources they so need to graduate. The alleged recruiting scandal was all about a coach who promised parents one thing and did not follow through. Both parties in this instance should be held responsible, parents for taking part in the alleged recruiting promises and the coaches for making the alleged promises. High Schools should be held responsible for the amount of students they graduate just like the Colleges. Parents should be held responsible for ensuring that there youth attend school and ask for the necessary resources needed for their kids to graduate. Conference Head quarters such as the King CO and Metro should revamp how there schools compete, come up with a revenue sharing plan to help inner city Schools compete with the private schools. It is time to use the resources that are available to our kids. Youth are being asked to do well in the classroom and on the athletic fields that is fine. Youth need to be more responsible. The question is who is holding the parents and school administrators responsible? You cannot use the same athletic registration, scheduling and transportation methods from twenty years ago in today's world. It just does not work. It is time our kids deserved better from school and athletic administrators.

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* Pre -Advance Ticket Sale Jan - Mar 3rd $ 25.00 *
After Mar 3rd Reg Price $35.00
Contact Parker Promotions 206 525 5354

For Men Only Conference and Retreat

Bishop T.D. Jakes Hosts Three-Day Conference at the Gaylord Texan in Grapevine, Texas - March 9, 10 and 11, 2006

Bishop T.D. Jakes invites men from diverse racial and ethnic, geographic and socio-economic backgrounds to join him for three days of inspired teaching, fellowship and camaraderie at the luxurious Gaylord Texan in Grapevine, Texas, March 9-11. The conference will feature Bishop Jakes, Bishop Eddie Long, Dr. Myles Munroe, and gospel entertainer, Fred Hammond.

"The For Men Only Conference and Retreat," said Bishop Jakes, "is an unparalleled opportunity for men to participate in intimate, informal and intriguing seminars focused on faith, family, finance, and business - three days guaranteed to assist them as they crystallize their individual goals and ascertain God's unique plans for their lives."

In addition to personal development activities, conference attendees are invited to participate in the For Men Only Golf Tournament at the Tribute Golf Club. The conference is open to the media. Please stay tuned for information about discounted registration. For more information, call 1-800-Bishop2 or visit the ministry website at www.thepottershouse.org

Slam Poet Noel Jones, March 2, 12:30 p.m.-1:30 p.m.

Hear national slam poetry champion Noel Jones Jones teaches poetry to at-risk youth in New York and has received an international writer's residency in Prague. Part of the 2005-2006 Artist and Lecture Series, sponsored by the Associated Students of Tacoma Community College. 253.566.5118. Free. Tacoma Community College Main Campus, Opgaard Student Center, Building 11, 6501 S. 19th St., Tacoma.

Call for entries for Fourth Annual Juried Local Art Exhibition

Tacoma, Wash. — Western Washington artists working in all media are invited to submit entries for The Gallery at Tacoma Community College's Fourth Annual Juried Local Art Exhibition. The deadline for applications is April 28, 2006. The show will be on view June 19 through Aug. 11.

Entries will be juried by local artists and Tacoma Community College art faculty. They will be judged on quality and creativity.

Artists should send their resumé, exhibition history, artist statement, no more than five slides and a $25 non-refundable application fee to The Gallery at TCC, 6501 S. 19th St., Tacoma, WA 98466-6100. For more information, contact the gallery coordinator at 253.460.4306.

The Gallery at TCC provides space for student, faculty and outside art exhibits. It was designed to enhance the cultural life at TCC and also provides students in the college's museum gallery operations program a hands-on space in which to learn.

PRAISE PAGE CHURCH DIRECTORY

Shiloh Baptist Church
" May God Bless You Real, Real Good "
1211 South I Street Tacoma, WA. 98405
(253)272-4949 Fax: (253)272-0750 Email : sbc1953@aol.com
Early Service 8:00 a.m.
Church School 9:30 a.m.
Morning Service 11:00 a.m.
Children age 3-11 & Youth Church age 12-18
High Noon Service 12:00 p.m. (Wed. Only)
Bible Study (All Ages) & Worship Service (6:00 p.m.)
AWANA CLUB (Every Friday) 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. (3 - 11)
Youth Late Night (2nd & 4th Friday)

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Sunday Morning Worship @11:00am
Tuesday Evening Bible Reading @7:00pm
Thursday Evening Bible Reading @7:00pm
Visit us on the Web @ www.surehouselive.com & www.garylwyatt.com

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SUNDAY
Church School: 9:30 a.m.
Worship Services:
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MID-WEEK SERVICES
Wednesday Bible Study
12:00 Noon & 6:30 p.m.
Prayer Meeting: 7:30 p.m.
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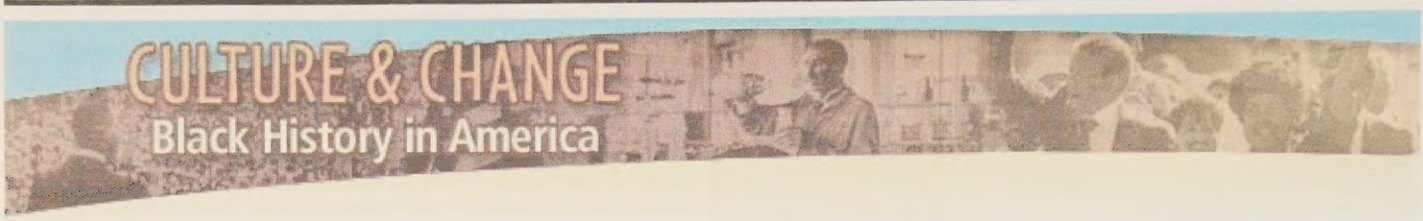
1223 Martin Luther King Jr. Way Tacoma, WA. 98405
(253) 627-6855 Fax (253) 627-8206
Worship Celebrations
Sunday 8:00 A.M. Early Worship
9:30 A.M. Sunday Church School
11:00A.M. Worship Service
Childcare Available during 11:00 Worship
Wednesday Bible Study 6:00 P.M.
Youth Bible Study Glory nd 2 and 4th Sunday s 2:30 P.M
Visit us on the Web @ www.allename.org

Ministry -*An on going service to God and people.*

Ministry can be anything from working in the church nursery, volunteering at a homeless shelter or cleaning the pews to teach Sunday School, leading a Bible study or planting churches overseas.

Get on board!

Join the praise page. Let Pierce County know where they can get ***Spiritually Connected!***
Include your church in the Church Directory , *Call For More Info (253) 383-3832*



Jazz and Wine Festival takes center stage; aims to build one, too

Tacoma's Old Town Business District is sponsoring a celebration of some of the finer things in life: jazz music and wine.

The third annual Jazz and Wine Festival will take place from 1 to 10 p.m. on March 4 in Tacoma's Old Town District at the historic Slavonian Hall, 2306 N. 30th St.

This year's list of contemporary jazz artists includes Greta Matassa, Kareem Kandi, Deems Tsutakawa and Hat Trick. More than 40 wines from various Washington distributors and hors d'oeuvres will also be available.

Proceeds from the festival will support the creation of a permanent outdoor performance stage in Old Town Park, at the base of North 30th Street, a project headed by the producer of the festival, Ted Brown.

Twenty-five dollar tickets will be available at the door and at the following Old Town locations: The Spar, Tully's, Columbia Bank, Carlson Wagonlit Travel, Wells Fargo Home Mortgage and also at Ted Brown Music and Vino Aquino.

For more information about the festival, visit www.oldtowntacoma.org/jazz.

" A Raisin in the Sun "

Do you have a dream? If so... What is it? If not... Why not? When was the last time you checked the road map....are you still on the path to make your dream a reality? Are you already living and experiencing your dreams? Don't stop now! Dream some more! As we celebrate February; Black History Month, and just last month the birthday of the late Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., whose "I Have a Dream" speech continues to ignite us, It is an opportune time to experience the dreams and aspirations of the Younger family of Lorraine Hansberry's classic play "A Raisin in the Sun." The play, directed by Tacoma actor/director Charles Canada is in its last week at the Lakewood Playhouse in Lakewood's Towne Center Mall. The Younger family is anticipating the one item to push their dreams full speed ahead! The one item birthed out of the sweat, tears, breath, then death of Mr. Younger; husband, father, grandfather, father-n-law. The check! The insurance money from Mr Younger' life insurance policy. Each member of the family has an idea about what to with the money. Each member has a dream to be ignited then propelled forward. This superb cast propels the story forward with each act. I saw the movie based on the play, starring Sidney Poitier when I was much younger than I am now. As I watched the story unfold on stage, I thought to myself, "these actors and actresses, these fellow thespians could very well bring the story to life on the big screen once again! Mr. Canada has done an excellent job. The Lakewood Playhouse provides an intimate setting for the story. It gives you the feeling that you are a fly on the wall of the living room watching the family interaction. Every family has their story. It would be a good idea to take your family to see this one together! Final week this week February 24 - 26, 2006. Show times are Friday and Saturday at 8:00pm, Sunday Matinee at 2:00pm. If an event has anything to do with art & entertainment, More than likely...I'll see you out! ~Betty Slater Art & Entertainment Journalist

We have a dream for Washington state...

that one day diabetes, heart disease, stroke, HIV, and preventable childhood diseases will be part of the past, not the future.

Don't let diabetes destroy your life. Choose to live.

More than 3 million African Americans, age 20 and older, have diabetes.

If you have diabetes, you are at high risk for heart attack and stroke. By managing your blood glucose, blood pressure and cholesterol, you can reduce your risk for heart disease.

Left to right: Dr. Maxine Hayes, State Health Officer, and Dr. Nancy L. Fisher, Health Care Authority Medical Director

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CULTURE & CHANGE
Black History in America

The Tacoma Urban League Exciting Opportunity

The Tacoma Urban League (TUL) has an exciting opportunity for a highly talented professional to serve as President/CEO. The incumbent will focus on the league's transition plan, program development, and grant writing. Will have direct responsibility for planning, organizing and directing the programs of the agency and recruiting program volunteers. Will perform public relations functions by serving on professional and civic committees, speaking before organizations, consulting with administrators of other agencies and participating in conferences. Maintain cooperative relationships with health and welfare organizations, private corporations, state and federal agencies and the United Way regarding health and welfare needs of the community. Develop a strong working partnership with the Board of Directors and a strong leadership role with the staff.

Minimum Qualifications

Candidates will have five years experience in personnel management, long and short-range and strategic planning, fiscal management, marketing/promotion, fundraising, working with a volunteer Board of Directors, program development and program implementation.

A Bachelor's Degree is required with a specialization in the areas of business administration, social work, human resource management, education, or an appropriate related discipline. A graduate degree is preferred.

Additional Desired Qualifications/Experience

- Results oriented
- Team builder
- Excellent organizational and communication skills
- Proven community leadership/board relationship experience

The Tacoma Urban league offers a benefits package and a competitive salary.
Submit resumes by email to: cbrown1984@comcast.net
Mail resumes to:
Tacoma Urban League, Attn: Cliff Brown,
2550 South Yakima Ave, Ste A, Tacoma, WA 98405

A Black History Month reminder:
Lest we forget, freedom isn't free!

The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) has fought discrimination in employment, education, housing, and voting rights since 1909.

The NAACP's strength in membership numbers gave political power and clout to the organization during periods of outright discrimination in our country's history. As discrimination became less blatant, NAACP membership numbers have decreased. Help the NAACP continue to be a strong organization that is there to help those suffering from discrimination.

Call (253-272-0357) or e-mail (www.tacoma-naacp.org) the Tacoma Branch today to get information on how to activate your membership.

Meetings are 6:30 p.m., 4th Mondays at Shiloh Baptist Church, 1211 South I Street

John Harold Johnson,
A Black History Month Commemoration

John Harold Johnson

It's February and that means it's Black History Month, a designated time to commemorate and celebrate black contributions to American society. Unfortunately, the historic achievement of African American businesspeople is too often neglected this month, and every month.

For more than two decades, a number of historians, led largely by the path breaking scholarship of Professor Juliet E.K. Walker of the University of Texas, have been working to expand our knowledge of the rich tradition of black entrepreneurs, managers, and corporate executives. Too few people, including U.S. historians, have taken notice.

This historical neglect might have changed after last year, which witnessed the passing of one of the greatest entrepreneurs in American history. John Harold Johnson, the grandson of slaves, rose from Depression-era Arkansas roots to reach to the pinnacle of commercial success. In 1982, he had earned a place on the Forbes 400 list of richest Americans—the first African American so recognized. By the time of his death, at the age of eighty-seven, his fortune was thought to exceed a half a billion dollars.

Johnson's business career began in 1936 when he accepted a part-time position with the black-owned Supreme Life Insurance Company of Chicago. In 1942, using his mother's furniture as collateral for a loan and advance proceeds from charter subscribers, he began his storied entrepreneurial career by creating the monthly news magazine Negro Digest. Three years later, he launched the legendary Ebony magazine, and in 1951 he began publishing the pocket-sized newsweekly Jet. By 1955, Johnson was an established millionaire and his publishing company reported a combined circulation of 2.6 million.

Of course what makes Johnson's success story even more remarkable is that he, like other black entrepreneurs and businesspeople, was forced to overcome severe racism. Early on, for example, when he approached First National Bank of Chicago for a business loan, he was told "Boy, we don't make any loans to colored people." Years later, a white property owner refused to sell his office building to Johnson because he was black. Undeterred, Johnson hired a white attorney to act surreptitiously on his behalf and he proceeded to buy the property at fair market value.

Another obstacle was convincing white advertising agencies and corporate executives to advertise in Johnson's magazines. He found some limited success with the companies Chesterfield and Kotex, but the significant financial breakthrough came in 1947 when this consummate salesman attracted the loyalty of Eugene F. McDonald, Zenith Radio's president, who not only bought major blocks of advertising but also encouraged other major corporations to do the same. As a result, business historian Robert Weems argues that Johnson "emerged as the major intermediary between corporate America and black consumers." Many years later, Johnson joined Zenith's board of directors.

Clearly Johnson was an ambitious capitalist, but he also was committed to both black economic empowerment and to enhancing the image of African Americans in the media. Over decades, Johnson employed and trained thousands of black Americans and he supported the activities of many black entrepreneurs, especially those in the advertising industry. On a broader scale, the eminent psychologist and Civil Rights leader Kenneth B. Clark concluded that "It is almost impossible to measure the morale-building value of [Ebony]. There mere fact of its existence and success has been an inspiration to the Negro masses."

John Johnson's business activities extended beyond magazine publishing and real estate investments. He owned multiple radio stations, sponsored several television shows, and manufactured hair care products. In 1973, he founded Fashion Fair Cosmetics, which after losing $5 million during its first five years of operation, grew to become America's largest black-owned cosmetics company with international sales in North and Latin America, in Europe, and in Africa. Other Johnson business lines included travel services, a mail order operation, fashion shows, clothing, and book publishing. Beyond commerce, Johnson left a legacy of philanthropy that was most often committed to education. He was especially dedicated to the United Negro College Fund, and it is estimated that his companies helped to raise more than $51 million in scholarships throughout the country. Several years before his death, he donated $4 million to Howard University's School of Communications, which now bears his name. He also actively supported the Urban League, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, and the National Conference of Christians and Jews. Not withstanding the above, John Johnson was a controversial figure. Employees complained about his autocratic leadership style, with some even referring to Johnson Publishing as the "plantation." In 1985, Fortune magazine labeled him as "one of the toughest bosses to work for." Johnson's publications were also criticized for offering too much "fluff" at the expense of critical reporting on the continuing inequities of American society. In response, Johnson often pointed to specific stories he had published related to the civil rights struggle, but he also reminded his critics that he was "a businessman, not a social worker."

For most of his life Johnson preached that a strong work ethic and sheer perseverance could overcome racial prejudice. But the accomplished millionaire came to question this precept, writing in his autobiography Succeeding Against the Odds: "the closer I get to the top the more I realize that I'm never going to be fully accepted on merit and money alone. And that a different generation of Blacks—and a different generation of Whites—will know the final victory."

It is difficult to exaggerate John Johnson's influence on American society. And while the extent of his commercial success is truly exceptional, he is but one of countless examples of the inspirational black business tradition in American history. That tradition deserves more attention not only during Black History Month and but also in the pages of our classroom history books.

Jeffrey J. Matthews, PhD, is the Director of the Business Leadership Program at the University of Puget Sound, where he teaches the course "Black Business Leadership: Past & Present." He is the author of Alanson B. Houghton: Ambassador of the New Era (2004).

Prostate Cancer Screening Debate Ignores Black Men

A recent study released by the Veterans Affairs (VA) Connecticut Healthcare System and Yale School of Medicine received national media exposure when it concluded that prostate cancer screening isn't as reliable a measure as it should be. One of the study's co-authors encouraged doctors to tell patients to decide for themselves whether to even get screened for the disease. This is another in a series of seemingly endless contradictory studies on this subject. This particular study, however, was based on results from a very small pool of 1,000 men and falls silent on the disease's impact on blacks and other men at high risk. If black men put off screening as a result of this highly publicized study, they are increasing their chances of being diagnosed with later stage and incurable prostate cancer.

My initial reaction upon reading this study was to question whether there were different outcomes for black men. The failure of these studies to address the specific conditions and urgent needs of blacks and others at high risk should be considered incomplete and bordering on irresponsibility. For prostate cancer detection in this country, all men are caught between using inexact screening techniques and a medical care system that does not always know how to use this information effectively. The results for black men are the extremely high death rates that we endure compared to all other men. Our 140 percent higher death rate (American Cancer Society data) is the largest racial disparity for any type of major cancer afflicting men or women. Action, not confusion, is required to address this disparity.

Last September, Senator John Kerry (D-MA) (a prostate cancer survivor) and Congressman Gregory Meeks (D-NY) joined with my organization, The Prostate Health Education Network (PHEN), to convene an unprecedented event on Capitol Hill: the first-ever African American Prostate Cancer Disparity Summit. Leading cancer experts, survivors, advocates, clergy members, and political leaders gathered together and concluded that early detection is the key to eliminating the prostate cancer disparity. Further, the fact remains that the American Cancer Society recommends that screening be "offered" annually, beginning at age 50, to men who have at least a 10-year life expectancy - with African-American men to begin testing at age 45. Prostate cancer screenings through the PSA test and the digital rectal exam are the only means used today for early detection. Medical experts agree that prostate cancer can be cured with early detection and proper treatment. Because men do not have the same access to advanced imaging technology that women use to help detect breast cancer, we must become better educated about screening and how to interpret screening results. The debate about whether prostate cancer screenings saves lives misses the mark if it does not address the unique early detection needs of black men. As we have seen all too often in the black community, silence and passivity about this disease kills.

Prostate cancer continues to be the leading cause of cancer and the second leading cause of cancer deaths among men in our country. In my work advocating for increased education and awareness, I've spoken with hundreds of men diagnosed with the disease who are forced to navigate a medical care system with a myriad of contradictions and treatment options. This is an area where increased knowledge, resources and support are desperately needed for continued progress towards increasing survival. And this pursuit of progress must be responsible and responsive to the needs of all men -especially black men, who are most vulnerable.

Studies such as that conducted by the VA and Yale seem to ignore the grave prostate cancer predicament of black men in this country, which is the world's worst. It is only through increased education, research, awareness and new treatments - not a continuous flow of conflicting reports on the screening tests now available - that we will be able to reduce deaths from this disease.

It's true that we don't have a perfect system of screening techniques to detect prostate cancer. But we can't allow the desire for perfection to be the enemy of good for those that are most vulnerable.

Thomas A. Farrington, is a prostate cancer survivor and author of the books, "Battling the Killer Within" and "Battling the Killer Within and Winning." The Prostate Health Education Network, Inc, (PHEN) is a non-profit 501(c)3 organization. PHEN's mission is to increase prostate health education and awareness among African American men. For more information about PHEN's education and awareness activities, visit www.prostatehealthed.org

As a prostate cancer survivor, I have personally experienced the pains and confusion surrounding prostate cancer screening. Before I was diagnosed with the disease, I was not aware or informed by my doctors of my exceedingly high-risk (my own father and both grandfathers died from this disease), or of any specific screening guidelines associated with this risk. Because of my cancer stage when diagnosed, I was forced to seek out a specialized treatment not available to most men.

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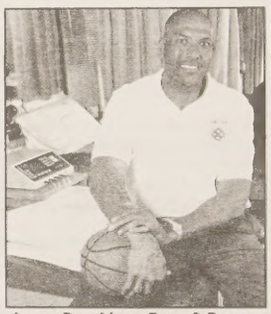

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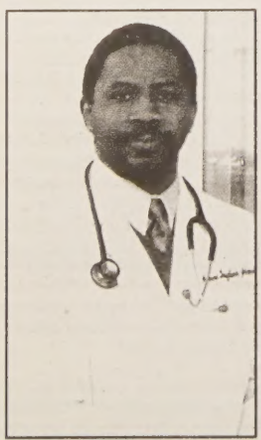

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Landmarks Preservation Commission to consider two nominations

The Tacoma Landmarks Preservation Commission will take public comment on two nominations to the Tacoma Register of Historic Places at 5 p.m. Feb. 22 in Tacoma Municipal Building North at 733 Market St., Room 16. Nominated properties include 102 West Road N. (McNeely House) and 934-36 Broadway (SH Kress & Co. Building). The McNeely House, built in 1917, is nominated as an example of a Craftsman residence, and as an example of the work of noted Tacoma architect Ambrose Russell. The Kress Building, constructed in 1925, is nominated for its association with the commercial history of downtown Tacoma and as an example of early 20th century commercial architecture.

Tacoma housing takes center stage at Leadership Institute

Panelists will discuss what it means to keep a home in Tacoma and housing availability at 6:45 p.m. Feb. 22 in a free Government Leadership Institute session. The panel will include Tacoma City Council Member Julie Anderson, Tacoma Housing Authority member Michael Mirra, MDC member Sandy Burgess and neighborhood activist Jonathan Phillips. The free session will be held at the Keystone Auditorium, 1900 Commerce St. on the University of Washington Tacoma campus.

City hires Tansy Hayward as an Assistant to the City Manager

Tansy Hayward will join the City of Tacoma on March 20 as a new Assistant to the City Manager. Hayward currently works as a management analyst in the City Manager's Office in Des Moines, Iowa. She also worked as a management assistant and management intern in Des Moines.

Hayward was selected from a field of 52 applicants following a nation wide search. She holds a Master of Public Administration from the University of Kansas, as well as a Bachelor of Arts, Political Science degree from the University of Kansas.

The Assistant to the City Manager position is a new job created as part of the reorganization of the City Manager's Office that was implemented during the 2005-2006 mid-biennium budget adjustment. Hayward's focus in the City Manager's Office will be on administrative functions, including budget, finance, information technology and personnel.

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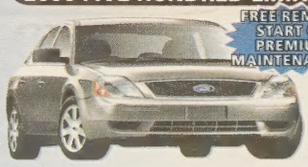

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